

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 March 2001 (08.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/17297 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04Q 7/32
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/23942
- (22) International Filing Date: 30 August 2000 (30.08.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/387,615 31 August 1999 (31.08.1999) US
- (71) Applicant: QUALCOMM INCORPORATED [US/US];
5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121-1714 (US).
- (72) Inventors: ROGERS, John, G.; 12579 Cloudesly Drive,
San Diego, CA 92128 (US). LEKVEN, Eric, J.; 7961 Via
Orilla, Carlsbad, CA 92009 (US).
- (74) Agents: OGROD, Gregory, D. et al.; Qualcomm Incorporated,
5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121-1714
(US).

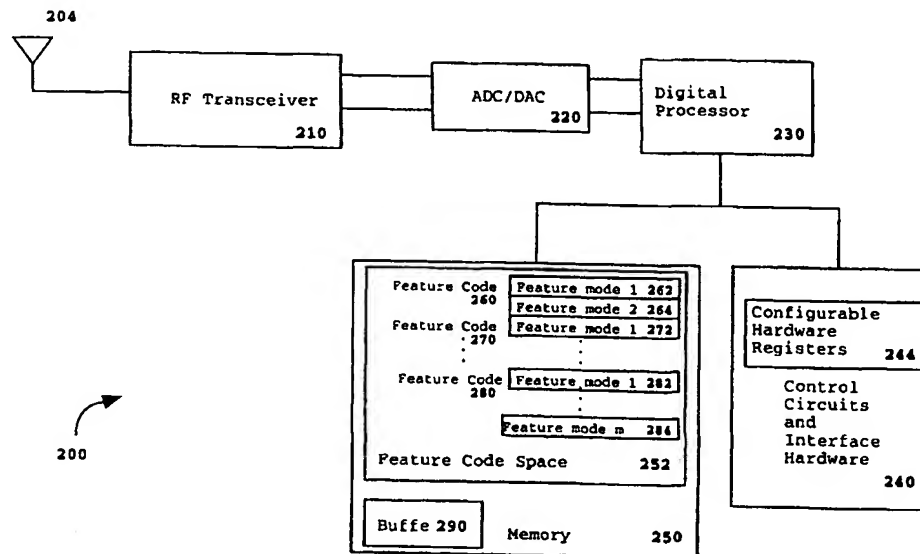
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOTE ACTIVATION OF WIRELESS DEVICE FEATURES USING SHORT MESSAGE SERVICES (SMS)



(57) Abstract: Features may be added to the handset of a mobile telephone by sending an SMS message to the handset. If the first characters of the message indicate a control message (104), the SMS message activates the feature (150). If not, it is treated as a normal SMS message (106). The control message is disregarded if the handset model ID is incorrect (108), lacks the minimum software (120), or is not the exact software if exact software is required (140).

WO 01/17297 A1

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOTE ACTIVATION OF WIRELESS DEVICE FEATURES USING SHORT MESSAGE SERVICES (SMS)

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to wireless communications. More particularly, the present invention relates to a novel and improved method and apparatus for remote control of software and hardware features in a wireless communication device using Short Message Services (SMS).

15 II. Description of the Related Art

Wireless communication systems are constantly evolving. System designers are continually developing greater numbers of features for both service providers as well as for the end users. In the area of wireless phone systems, cellular based phone systems have advanced tremendously in recent years. Wireless phone systems are available based on a variety of modulation techniques and are capable of using a number of allocated frequency bands. Available modulation schemes include analog FM and digital modulation schemes using Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) or Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA). Each scheme has inherent advantages and disadvantages relating to system architecture, frequency reuse, and communications quality. However, the features the manufacturer offers to the service provider and which the service provider offers to the consumer are similar between the different wireless systems.

Regardless of the modulation scheme in use, the wireless phone available to the end user has myriad features implemented. Nearly all wireless phones incorporate a display that allows the user to enter text banners, display dialed numbers, and display incoming caller numbers. Additionally, wireless phones may incorporate electronic phonebooks, speed dialing, single button voicemail access, and messaging capabilities.

Of course, in order for the consumer to take full advantage of all the features implemented in the phone many of the features require complementary feature support from the service provider. Voicemail storage and messaging capabilities necessarily must be implemented by the service provider in order for the consumer to have access through their supporting phones.

Additionally, features that are not apparent to the user may be incorporated into phones and capable of service provider support. A feature such as slotted paging allows a phone to monitor the RF link for paging messages only during an assigned time frame. This allows the phone to power down to an idle state during time frames that are not assigned to the phone. This allows the phone to conserve battery life, thus increasing standby and talk times. Slotted paging can increase the service provider's message capacity since phones can be distinguished using the assigned time slot in addition to addressing. Although the phone user benefits from slotted paging, the implementation and usage of the feature cannot be seen or initiated by the phone user.

The features described above present only a sample of features that are capable of, or have already been, implemented into wireless phone systems. Any individual feature is capable of implementation into some or all of the wireless systems using the modulation schemes mentioned above. A particularly useful feature provides messaging capability within phones. The Short Message Services (SMS) feature used in a CDMA wireless communication system allows for information transfer to and from a wireless phone. However, the implementation of SMS is not limited to use in a CDMA system. The description of SMS in a CDMA system is merely provided as a foundation for the discussion of the preferred embodiment of the invention presented below.

Short Message Services (SMS) are used to allow the communication of alphanumeric messages to wireless phones. The general specification for SMS in a CDMA phone system can be found in Telecommunications Industry Association and Electronic Industries Association specification TIA/EIA/IS-637, SHORT MESSAGE SERVICES FOR WIDEBAND SPREAD

SPECTRUM CELLULAR SYSTEMS. The general specification for the CDMA phone system can be found in TIA/EIA/IS-95, MOBILE STATION-BASE STATION COMPATIBILITY STANDARD FOR DUAL-MODE WIDEBAND SPREAD SPECTRUM CELLULAR SYSTEM.

5 In a CDMA wireless communication system information is carried over multiple channels on a carrier frequency distinguished by modulation using orthogonal codes. The forward link (base station to subscriber unit) and the reverse link (subscriber unit to base station) use different carrier frequencies. The distinct orthogonal codes define channels for
10 communication of information. Aside from the Pilot and Sync channels, there may be multiples of each channel type within the coverage area of any particular base station. Each channel will be distinguished by a separate orthogonal code such that simultaneous communication over the same frequency space is possible.

15 The subscriber unit, or phone, uses the Pilot and Sync channel transmissions by each base station to acquire and synchronize to the CDMA system. The Pilot and Sync channels contain system overhead information only and the subscriber unit does not transmit on these channels. The subscriber unit utilizes the Pilot and Sync channels to align the internal
20 timing of the subscriber unit with the timing of the base station.

 One or more Paging channels may exist in the system. Once the subscriber unit has acquired the Pilot and Sync channels it monitors the Paging channel for messages directed to it. The messages may include overhead messages relating to link parameters or may include directed
25 messages for a particular subscriber unit. The Paging channel is also used to transmit acknowledgements or responses to messages generated by the subscriber unit. The communication on the Paging channel can be directed from the base station to an individual subscriber unit, as in the case of an acknowledgement message, or can be directed from the base station to many
30 subscriber units simultaneously, as in the case of broadcast messages.

 The complement to the Paging channel is the Access channel. The base station monitors the Access channel for messages generated by the subscriber unit. The subscriber unit can transmit a variety of messages to

the base station on the Access channel. The messages may include data burst messages, acknowledgements or responses to received paging messages, and registration access messages.

The Traffic channel completes the list of channel types available in a CDMA wireless communication system. The Traffic channel is used for voice, data, and messages. When communication is assigned to a Traffic channel both a forward link channel, enabling communication from the base station to the subscriber unit, and reverse link channel, enabling communication from the subscriber unit to the base station, are dedicated to the current communication.

As mentioned above, the SMS feature allows the communication of short alphanumeric messages between the base station and the subscriber unit. Messages may be initiated at a message center and transmitted via the base station to the subscriber unit. Messages may also be initiated at the subscriber unit and transmitted to the message center through the base station.

Messages transmitted from the base station to the subscriber unit may be transmitted over the Paging or Traffic channels. The messages transmitted to the subscriber unit are formatted as Data Burst Messages as defined in TIA/EIA/IS-95. Messages may either be directed to individual subscriber units as point-to-point messages or may be simultaneously directed to many subscriber units as broadcast messages.

Even when broadcast messages are sent there is still the ability to provide some subscriber unit differentiation. The ability to direct broadcast messages to particular groups of subscriber units is provided in broadcast addresses. Subscriber units process a broadcast message only if it has been configured to accept the broadcast address. If the subscriber unit has not been configured to accept the broadcast address the message will be discarded and not processed.

However, the multitude of features available on any particular wireless communication system presents problems to the service provider. The service provider may not choose to initially enable all features. The service provider may also choose to implement new features as they are

developed. Subscriber units are initialized with features matching those offered by the service provider even though the phone may be capable of supporting additional features. Unfortunately, when the service provider activates new features the phone must be manually updated to activate the additional feature. The manual update is either performed by requiring the user to return the subscriber unit to the service provider for update or by instructing the user to activate the feature through a series of keypad entries. Requiring the user return the subscriber unit to the service provider for update is extremely inconvenient to the user and may result in many phones not having the feature activated. Similar problems exist when requiring the user activate the feature through keypad entries. The user is instructed in how to access a protected service menu within the phone software and is provided directions in how to activate the feature. The user may never receive the instructions or, if the user is technologically unsophisticated, may be hesitant to attempt to activate the feature. Moreover, there is the danger that erroneous entry of information by the user may render the phone inoperable. What is needed is a method for remotely updating the feature set within a subscriber unit such that new features may be activated without user participation. Preferably, the activation would occur over the wireless communication link using an existing communication method.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a novel and improved method and apparatus for remote activation of software and hardware features available within a wireless phone. The control of the phone features is accomplished using SMS messages. A feature control message is an SMS message constructed using a predetermined format. An SMS message is designated a feature control message if it begins with a predetermined start of message delimiter. Since SMS is typically used to relay alphanumeric messages to be displayed to the user the start of message delimiter is defined as a set of characters that normally do not begin a message and that normally do not

occur in succession. Once the phone has determined that a start of message delimiter has been received, the phone enters an SMS feature control routine. Successive predetermined data fields within the SMS message are parsed to provide the specific feature control information. The successive
5 data fields are each delimited with another predetermined character or set of characters. The separate data fields provide information including applicable phone model the control instruction is directed towards, minimum software version required of the phone, predetermined feature code, and specific mode information required to support the feature code.
10 Each of the data fields may be encrypted in order to provide a level of security to the feature message. Alternatively, a data field consisting of encrypted authentication data may be used to provide message security. An end of message delimiter is used to signify the control message is complete.

The phone hardware must be configured to support remote feature
15 control. There are no changes required of the phone RF receive sections. Changes are only required in the digital processing section that normally services the received SMS message. Rather than servicing all messages as alphanumeric display messages the hardware is required to determine whether or not the message is a feature control message. A digital processor
20 must identify the presence of a feature control message, parse the message to retrieve the contents of each data field, and set the parameters of the available feature to correspond to the received message. The parameters identified in the feature control message include feature codes and feature modes. The phone memory includes a predetermined feature code space
25 that contains a plurality of addresses corresponding to the plurality of feature codes. Each feature code has a corresponding address space available for storage of the feature modes required by that feature code. The feature code and feature modes are typically saved in non-volatile memory to maximize data reliability over all phone operating conditions.
30 In this manner the service provider utilizes an existing communication method to control the availability of features within user phones. The implementation of remote feature control requires no additional hardware for the service provider and does not interfere with

standard SMS message performance. Furthermore, the feature update requires no action by the phone user. This greatly simplifies the process of updating all available phones and is least intrusive to the phone user.

5 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The features, objects, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the detailed description set forth below when taken in conjunction with the drawings in which like reference characters
10 identify correspondingly throughout and wherein:

FIG. 1A-1B are flow charts showing the SMS interpretation routine;
and

FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing implementation of the feature control hardware within a wireless phone.

15

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Presently, in order to accommodate the future inclusion of known
20 features within a wireless phone, the manufacturer provides for special manufacturing runs of wireless phones to allow the service provider to enable and disable the features. To change the availability of a feature within one of these phones the phone must be returned to the service provider or the user must be provided instructions on how to enter special
25 service menus and provided specific details on how to change the feature availability. The present invention allows the service provider to enable and disable wireless phone features without requiring the phone be returned to the service provider for implementation. The service provider directs the phone to enable or disable a feature through a feature control
30 message transmitted to the phone using SMS. In order to distinguish the feature control message from ordinary SMS alphanumeric messages, predetermined special characters indicating the presence of a feature control message are used.

When a phone receives any SMS message it must check to see if it is a feature control message. The phone performs this by performing the feature control routine of FIGS 1A-1B. Referring to FIG. 1A, when an SMS message is received the phone begins by comparing the first characters of the received message with a predetermined start of control message delimiter, step 104. To prevent the phone from falsely concluding a received SMS message is a feature control message the start of control message delimiter is defined to be a series of characters that normally do not occur at the start of a message and that do not normally occur in sequence. As examples, the start of control message delimiter could be "??QC?", "((QC", or "))12". The number of characters and specific characters used are not limited but should be chosen to minimize false indications of feature control messages. If at step 104 it is determined that the first characters do not indicate a feature control message the phone does not attempt to alter any features and merely handles the message as a normal SMS message, step 106.

If the phone determines that the message represents a feature control message the routine advances to step 108 to interpret the next data field in the message. The data field following the start of control message delimiter identifies the model ID number of the phone that the feature control message is directed towards. The model ID can be any number of digits. The end of the model ID number is identified using a predetermined delimiter denoting the separation of data fields. The delimiter denoting the separation of data fields can be a single character but must be chosen such that any of the data fields will not use the delimiter as part of the data. A single character that satisfies this requirement is the question mark, "?".

If the number in the model ID field does not match the model ID of the receiving phone then the feature control routine proceeds to step 110. At step 110 the message is deleted since it is determined that the message is not valid for this particular phone. Deleting the message results in the termination of the feature control routine since there are no more data fields to examine.

However, if the model ID received in the SMS message matches that of the phone the routine advances to step 120 to examine the next data field

in the message. At step 120 the phone extracts the next data field, which corresponds to the minimum software version required of the phone. Again, the data field can be any number of characters in length with the end of the data field identified with a delimiter. The same delimiter used to
5 identify the end of the model ID data field will likely be used as the delimiter to identify the end of any subsequent data fields. The phone extracts the minimum software number from the SMS message and compares it to the current phone software version. A minimum software version is included in the feature control message to take account of
10 software and hardware evolution within the same phone models. Features that are available in later software revisions of the same model phone may not have been incorporated in earlier versions of the phone. Additionally, feature codes may have been updated within a software revision and the feature addressed through a feature code of an earlier software revision may
15 not correspond to the same feature in a later software revision. If the phone does not have the minimum software version the routine proceeds to step 110 where the SMS message is deleted and the feature control routine is terminated.

If in step 120 it is determined that the phone has at least the
20 minimum software version the routine advances to point 130, which serves to connect the flow chart of FIG. 1A with the flow chart on FIG. 1B.

Referring to FIG. 1B, from connecting point 130 the routine proceeds to step 140 to extract the next data field. The next data field informs the phone whether or not the exact software version extracted in the minimum
25 software field is to be used. As in the case of the earlier data fields, this data field is terminated with a delimiter. However, since this data field is only used to inform the phone as to a limitation of using only an exact software version it can be a single character in length. If the data field is true, designated by a "T", only the exact software version denoted in the
30 minimum software version data field is to be used. If the data field is false, designated by a "F", any software version greater than or equal to the minimum software version is acceptable.

If, at step 140, it is determined that the exact software version field is set to True, the feature control routine advances to step 142 to compare the earlier extracted minimum software version with the current software version of the phone. If the exact software version field is True and the software version received in the SMS control message does not match that of the phone the routine proceeds to step 110 where the message is deleted and the phone terminates the feature control routine. Step 110 is identical to that shown in FIG. 1A and is duplicated in FIG. 1B to minimize connecting references between the two figures.

10 If it is determined at step 140 that the exact software version field is set to False, or if at step 142 it is determined that the minimum software version and the phone software version are the same, the routine proceeds to step 150 to extract the feature codes and corresponding feature modes.

The next data field to be extracted is the feature code. Predetermined feature codes are used to identify features that may be controlled using SMS messages. Each feature code may require one or more feature modes that are required to be set. The number of feature modes that are required may be defined by the range of numbers that identify the feature code or may be stored within memory in the phone. Feature codes from 1 - 10,000 may require only one feature mode and feature codes from 10,001 - 20,000 may require two feature modes, etc. Alternatively, the number of the feature code may define the existence of an additional data field identifying the number of following feature modes. For feature codes from 1 - 10,000 only one feature mode may be required whereas for feature codes from 10,001 - 20,000 the data field following the feature code is defined as a data field identifying the number of feature modes required by the feature code.

At step 150 the feature code and feature mode are extracted from the SMS message. The programmable variable of the feature is then set to the value extracted from the feature mode field. At step 152 if it is determined that the feature code requires a text field as its value the routine advances to step 160 where the feature mode is set to the text value extracted from the feature mode field. The actual text data will be further delimited by markers

indicating the start and end of the text data. If text data is not indicated the feature mode is set to the value represented in the feature mode field.

The security of the feature control messages can be enhanced by requiring that each feature control message include an authentication field
5 as one of the data fields. Alternatively, each of the data fields could be encrypted. Either of these two methods prevents an unauthorized user from sending an SMS message in the format that would enable features in the phone to be turned on or off.

The feature control routine next proceeds to step 154 to determine if
10 the next portion of the control message is the end of message delimiter. The end of message delimiter is a character or set of characters not normally used in feature codes or feature modes that signals the end of the control message. If the end of message delimiter is detected, the routine proceeds to step 170 and terminates the feature control routine. However, if the end of
15 message delimiter is not detected the routine returns to step 150. At step 150 additional feature modes or feature codes will be extracted. If the prior feature code extracted required multiple feature modes and not all feature modes have been set the next data field represents a feature mode. If all feature modes have been set for the prior feature code the next data field
20 represents a new feature code. In this manner, multiple feature codes can be set using a single SMS feature control message.

Two examples are provided to further illustrate the operation of the flow chart of FIGS 1A-1B. Suppose a phone receives the following SMS message:

25 ??QC?31?ES0420?F?12345678?10)

Using the flow charts of FIGS 1A and 1B the message will be interpreted as a feature control message. The first five characters "??QC?" define the start of control message delimiter. The receipt of these characters informs the
30 phone to interpret the remainder of the message as a feature control message. The next data field represents the model ID number. In the example above the model ID is 31. The "?" after the number 31 is the delimiter that denotes the end of the data field. The data field following the

model ID represents the minimum software version. The minimum software version applicable in this example is "ES0420". Again the data field is terminated with the "?" delimiter. The contents of the next data field, "F", inform the phone that the exact software version field is false. A false
5 in the exact software version field allows the features of the phone to be controlled if the phone software version is equal or greater than the minimum software version. The next field, "12345678", defines the feature code. In this implementation the feature code requires only one feature mode. The number of feature modes could either be predetermined
10 according to the numerical value of the feature code or could be saved in memory within the phone. The feature mode, "10", provided in the next data field is the value to be assigned to the feature code. The character used to delimit the end of the feature mode, ")", also serves as the end of message delimiter. When the phone receives this character it is informed that the
15 feature control message is complete. The feature control routine is then terminated.

A feature control message utilizing multiple feature modes and text as well as numeric fields is provided as the second example. Suppose a phone receives the following SMS message:

20 ??QC?31?ES0420?F?98725?3?80?0?Pizza?0?6195551212)

The first four fields are interpreted identically to the example above. The start of control message delimiter is "??QC?", the model ID number is 31, the minimum software number is ES0420, and the exact software version field is set to False. The feature code in this example is 98725. For the
25 purposes of this example this feature code is defined to be within the range of feature codes that require a data field that defines the number of feature mode fields. In the message, the value 3 in the data field following the feature code informs the phone that the next three data fields represent feature modes for the particular feature code. The first feature mode has the
30 value 80. If the feature code 98725 represents a speed dial phone book within the phone, feature mode 80 represents location 80 within the speed dial phone book. The next feature mode is a text field. In addition to the contents of the data field and the data field delimiter there are delimiters

defining the presence of text data. The "0?" denotes the start of the text data and the "?0" denotes the end. Therefore the contents of the second feature mode field, "0?Pizza?0", denote text data with the text value "Pizza". This feature mode is stored as the text value corresponding to speed dial location 5 80. The third and final feature mode is a number with the value "6195551212". This represents the phone number stored in the speed dial location 80. Therefore, the feature control message would program the phone number 619 555-1212 into location 80 of the phone's speed dial phone book and label the location "Pizza".

10 The basic phone hardware required to implement the present invention is likely already available in any phone that has SMS capability. The level of hardware changes required is slight in relation to the positive aspects of being able to remotely control phone features.

Referring to FIG. 2, a wireless phone 200 interfaces to RF channels 15 through an antenna 204. The antenna 204 serves to collect the forward link signals directed from the base station (not shown) to the phone and to broadcast the reverse link signals directed from the phone to the base station. The antenna 204 routes the forward link signals to an RF receiver (not shown) in the RF Transceiver 210. Similarly, an RF transmitter (not 20 shown) in the RF Transceiver 210 routes the reverse link signals to the antenna 204.

Turning the focus exclusively to the receive path that an SMS message would take, within the RF Transceiver 210 the RF receiver filters and downconverts the received RF signal. The received signal is then 25 directed to an Analog to Digital Converter (ADC) 220 where the signal is digitized in preparation of further signal processing. The digital processor 230 recovers the information contained in the received signal. In a standard wireless phone the alphanumeric portion of a received SMS message would likely be routed to interface hardware 240 such as a display (not shown).

30 However, in the present invention the alphanumeric portion of an SMS message is first analyzed to see if it is a feature control message. The digital processor 230 checks the SMS message to see if the first characters denote the start of a feature control message. If the beginning characters do

not define a feature control message the SMS message is serviced as a standard SMS message. Once it is determined that a feature control message is present, the digital processor parses the message and separates the individual data fields. The wireless phone memory 250 contains a
5 predetermined feature code space 252 that holds the memory locations corresponding to the various feature codes. The feature codes retrieved from the SMS message correspond to predefined address spaces in memory 250. The memory 250 holds a number of unique locations corresponding to the feature modes available for each feature code. In FIG. 2, Feature Code 1
10 260 within feature code space 252 is depicted as requiring two feature modes, Feature mode 1, 262, and Feature mode 2, 264. As the feature modes are extracted from the SMS message they are written into memory 250 in specific locations corresponding to the active feature code. The feature mode values, e.g. 262 and 264, are used as parameters in determining the
15 operation of the control circuits and interface hardware 240. The memory for the feature modes and the feature code space 252 are typically implemented as non-volatile memory. Implementation as non-volatile memory ensures that all information stored in the feature code space 252 remains valid even if power to the memory device is interrupted or shut
20 off. As a precaution against incomplete messages, feature modes may be written into a buffer 290 within memory 250 and transferred to the specific feature mode locations only after all feature modes for a particular feature code are received. Alternatively, the specific feature modes corresponding to feature codes may be written directly into configurable hardware registers
25 244. By allowing SMS message access to reconfigurable data locations the operation and features within a wireless phone can be activated and deactivated in a remote manner.

The previous description of the preferred embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention.
30 The various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without the use of the inventive faculty. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the

embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

WE CLAIM:

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling feature availability in a wireless
2 device using SMS comprising:
 sending a predetermined SMS feature control message to the wireless
4 device;
 receiving at the wireless device the predetermined SMS feature
6 control message;
 parsing the predetermined SMS feature control message to separate
8 contents of data fields within the SMS feature control message; and
 controlling the feature availability according to the contents of the
10 data fields.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined SMS
2 feature control message comprises:
 a start of feature control message delimiter; and
4 an end of message delimiter.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the predetermined SMS
2 feature control message further comprises:
 a model ID number which identifies the model of wireless device the
4 feature control message is directed towards;
 a feature code which identifies a predetermined feature which is
6 reconfigurable using the SMS feature control message; and
 at least one feature mode which identifies a reconfigurable value
8 within the feature code.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the predetermined SMS
2 feature control message further comprises:
 a minimum software version which identifies the lowest version of
4 software able to use the feature code included in the SMS feature control
message; and

6 an exact software version data field.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the controlling step is
2 performed only if the exact software data field is set to true and the
minimum software version is exactly the same as a corresponding software
4 version of the wireless device.

6. The method of Claim 4 wherein the controlling step is
2 performed only if the exact software data field is set to false and the
minimum software version is the same or lower than a corresponding
4 software version of the wireless device.

7. The method of Claim 3 wherein the predetermined SMS
2 feature control message further comprises an authentication field that is
used to ensure the message is from an authorized originator.

8. An apparatus within an SMS capable wireless device for
2 controlling feature availability using SMS feature control messages
comprising:

4 a digital processor;

a memory device containing at least one predetermined feature code
6 space having at least one feature mode location; and

a minimum of one hardware feature which utilizes the contents of at
8 least one predetermined feature code space to determine the availability of
each hardware feature;

10 wherein the digital processor determines the presence of the SMS
feature control message, parses the SMS feature control message to recover a
12 plurality of data fields, and writes the contents of the data fields to
corresponding feature mode locations.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the plurality of data fields
2 comprise:

a model ID field identifying the model of wireless device the SMS
4 feature control message is directed towards;

a feature control field identifying the specific feature code space in
6 memory addressed; and

a minimum of one feature mode fields identifying the value to be
8 written in the corresponding feature mode locations.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the plurality of data fields
2 further comprises:

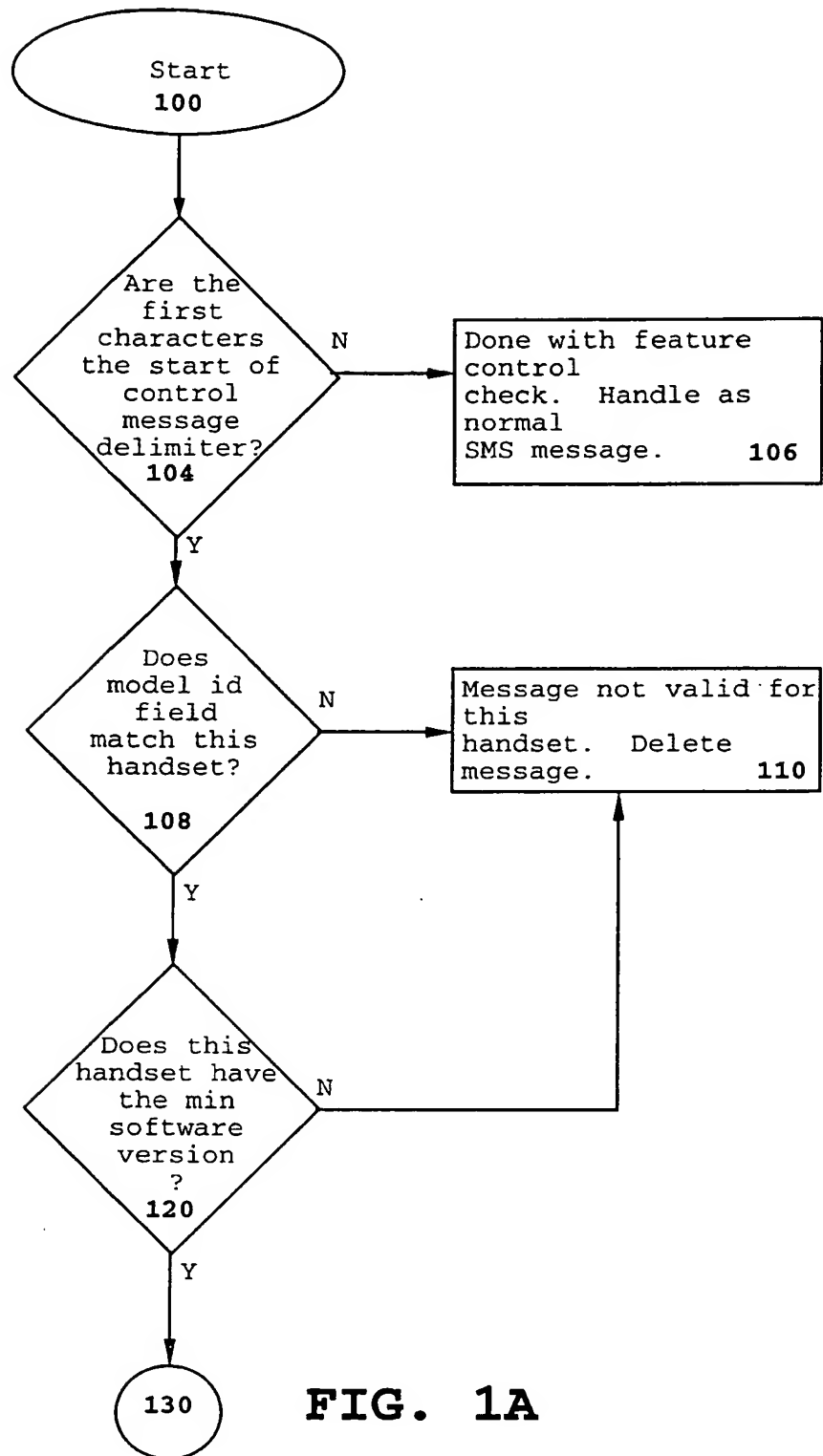
a minimum software version field identifying the lowest version of
4 software able to use the feature mode values; and
an exact version field.

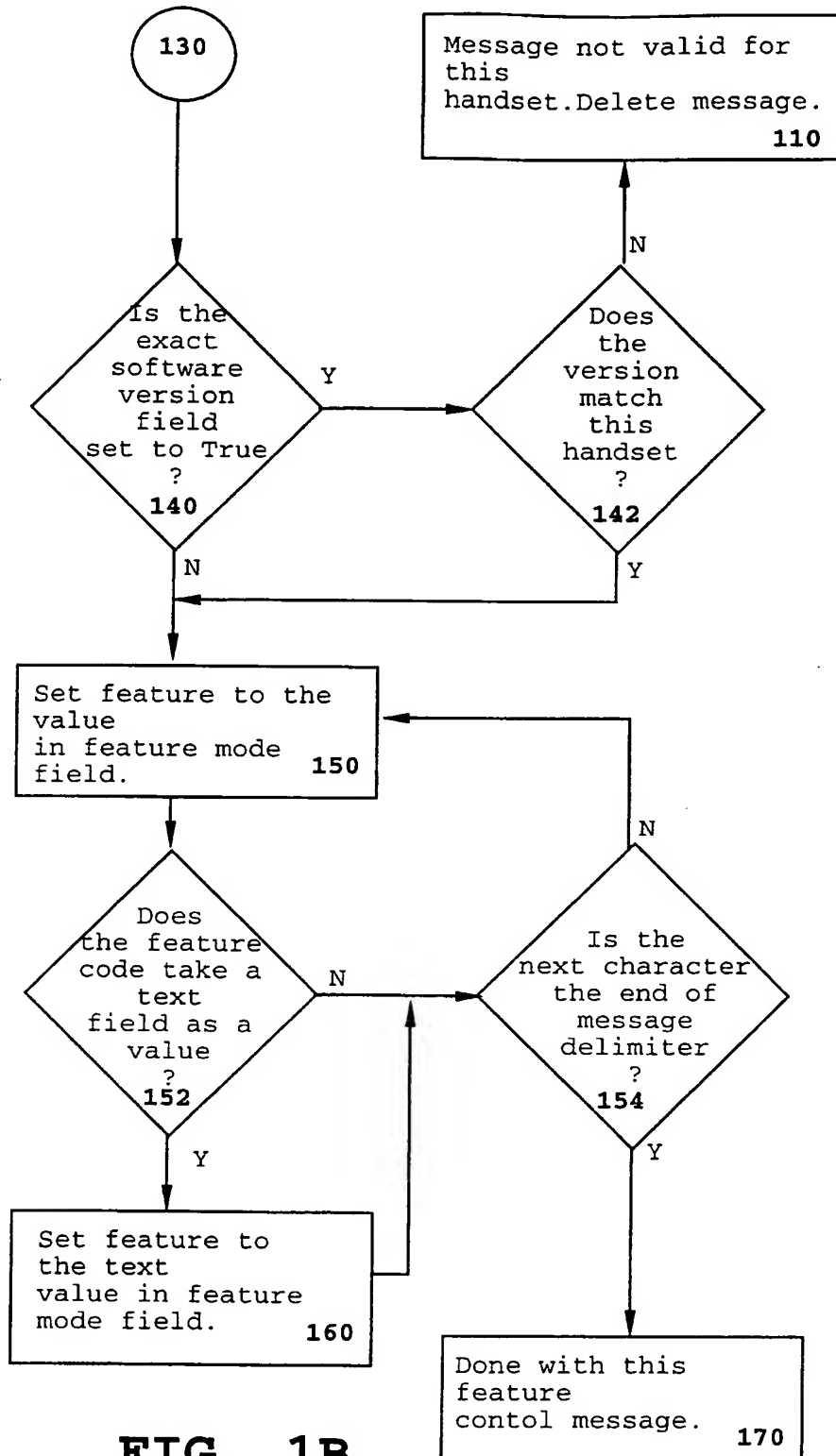
11. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the digital processor writes
2 the contents of the data fields to corresponding feature mode locations in
memory only if the exact software data field is set to true and the minimum
4 software version is exactly the same as a corresponding software version of
the wireless device.

12. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the digital processor writes
2 the contents of the data fields to corresponding feature mode locations in
memory only if the exact software data field is set to false and the minimum
4 software version is the same or lower than a corresponding software
version of the wireless device.

6

13. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the memory device is a non-
2 volatile memory device.

**FIG. 1A**

**FIG. 1B**

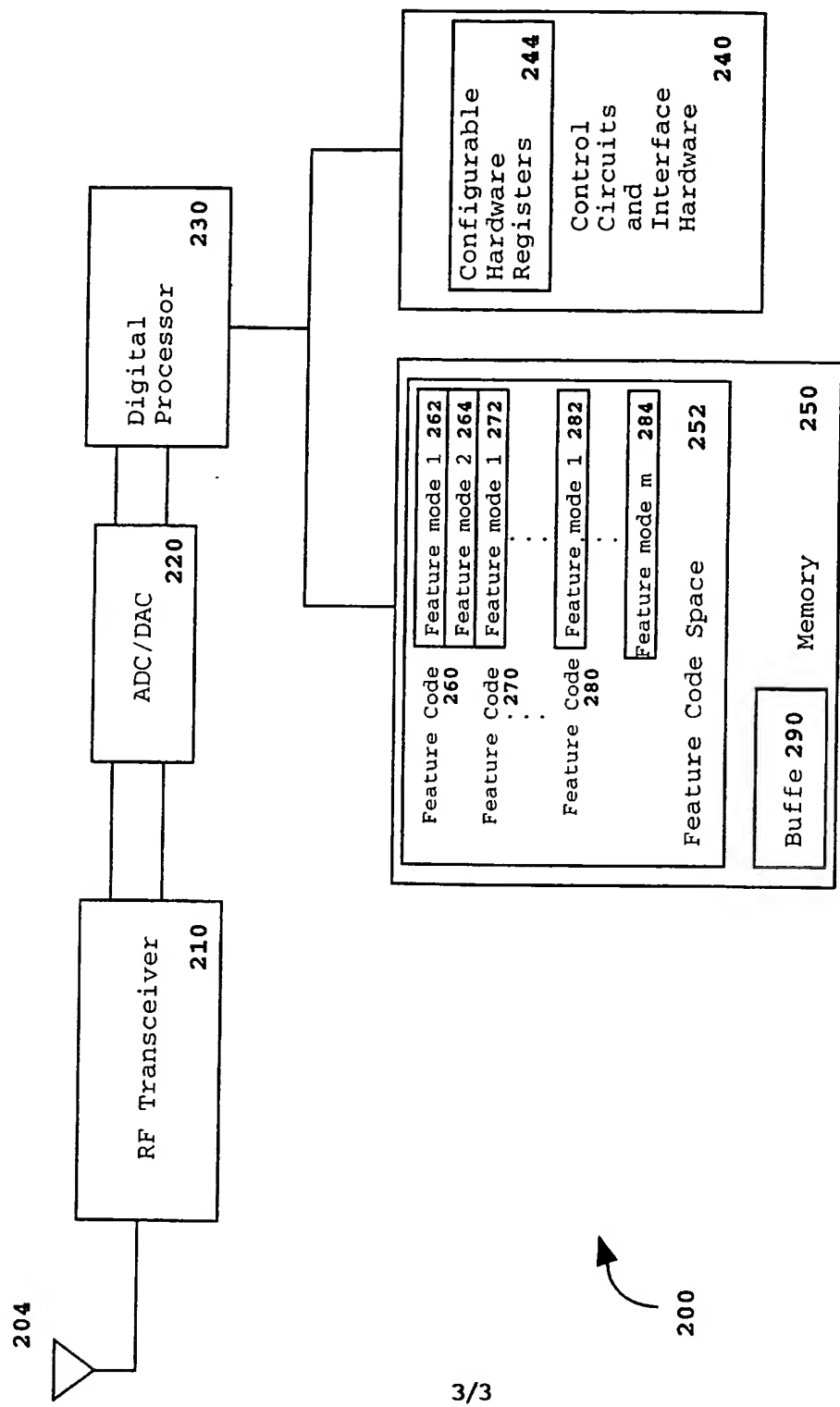


FIG. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Application No

PCT/US 00/23942

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04Q7/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 42782 A (ORGA KARTENSYSTEME GMBH ;DIETRICH HANNO (DE)) 13 November 1997 (1997-11-13) page 1, line 22 -page 2, line 6 page 3, line 14 -page 4, line 4	1-13
X	US 5 794 142 A (ALANARA SEPPO ET AL) 11 August 1998 (1998-08-11) column 5, line 13 -column 6, line 4 column 6, line 43 -column 7, line 3	1-13

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *A* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 November 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/11/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 851 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Heinrich, D

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern. Appl. Application No

PCT/US 00/23942

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9742782 A	13-11-1997	DE 19618218 C EP 0838122 A US 6055442 A	05-06-1997 29-04-1998 25-04-2000
US 5794142 A	11-08-1998	AU 1534597 A CN 1209936 A EP 0879538 A WO 9728662 A	22-08-1997 03-03-1999 25-11-1998 07-08-1997

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.